

Two Regeneron Semifinalists for Commack

Two Commack High School students, Daniel and Anoop, are among 300 high school seniors named as scholars (semifinalists) in the prestigious Regeneron Science Talent Search. Daniel and Anoop's projects were chosen from 1,818 applicants from high schools across the nation, Puerto Rico, and internationally. The competition is sponsored by the Society for Science & The Public, formerly sponsored by Intel.

Anoop's project is titled, "A Multilinear Approach to Forecasting the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)." Anoop's work combines nonlinear, chaotic and linear modeling approaches in four climate systems to accurately predict the ENSO phenomenon. Understanding ENSO is a critical resource in the effort to deal with climate change, and his efficient procedure could potentially be used to predict all ENSO seasons up to one year in advance.

Daniel's project is titled, "Sensor Network-based Wind Field Estimation using Deep Learning." Forecasting of solar irradiance is significant for planning the operations of power plants, which convert renewable energies into electricity. Daniel's study focuses on improving short-term, irradiance predictions by utilizing wind field information that commonly includes wind speed and direction. He developed a robust sensor network-based prediction model, which takes into account various factors such as topology of sensor placement, wind speeds, cloud cover moving rates, and the number of irradiance sensors deployed.

"We are extremely proud of these two young men and our team of educators," said Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Donald James. "It takes a colossal amount of dedication, effort, and time to complete the research and prepare their projects for such a rigorous competition. These young science researchers are shaping the future."

Each scholar receives a \$2,000

cash prize, and the High School will also receive an equal amount.

Anoop is a senior at Commack High School and an accomplished science researcher and mathematician. Most recently, Anoop has been named a Regeneron Science Talent Search Scholar for his research on the El Niño Southern Oscillation. He has placed at the Long Island Science & Engineering Fair, the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium, Sourceamerica Design Fair (Top 15 in the nation), and the NYIT High School Engineering Showcase. His math accomplishments include first place in the New York State Math League, placing in the United States of America Math Talent Search, and medaling in the Al Kalfus Long Island Math Fair. Anoop is a National Merit Scholarship Commended Student as well as an accomplished cellist and Tae Kwon Do Black Belt.

Daniel is a senior at Commack High School and an accomplished science researcher, mathematician, and computer programmer. Most recently, Daniel has been named a Regeneron Science Talent Search Scholar for his research on Sensor-Network-based Estimation of Wind Fields using Deep Learning. His work in mathematics include the development of a graph convolutional neural network and logistic regression model to predict risk of psychopathological problems in offspring of depressed parents. He is President of the Varsity Math Team, Vice-President of the Science Quiz Bowl Team, and Vice-President of the Computer Science Club at Commack High School. Daniel is an accomplished cellist and also has interests in gardening, rock & mineral collecting, German literature, and chess.



Science scholars are congratulated by the team of science research teachers and administrators. In photo, from left to right: Dr. Donald James, Superintendent of Commack Schools, Dr. Alison Offerman-Celentano, Director of Science, Richard Kurtz, Anoop, Jeanette Collette, Daniel, Dr. Lorraine Solomon, Andrea Beatty, Dr. Daniel Kramer, and CHS Principal Leslie Boritz.

It's Budget Season!
Please join us as we discuss the
2018-2019 School Budget

April 12, 2018
Board of Education Meeting
& Budget Adoption at 8 p.m.
Hubbs Administration Center

May 3, 2018
Board of Education Meeting
& Budget Hearing at 8 p.m.
Hubbs Administration Center

May 15, 2018
Budget Vote
& Trustee Election 6 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Commack Middle School
& Commack High School

Can't make it to a meeting? Watch it live on our website or watch a recording of the meeting at your convenience.

Student's Ground-breaking Research Published

Jake, a senior at Commack High School, just had his second scientific research paper published, a very rare accomplishment for someone at any age. His research and manuscripts "laid the foundation for other students to continue Jake's work," said his mentor Dr. Prakash Narayan, PhD, Vice President of Preclinical Research & C.O.O. at Angion Biomedica Corp. Jake's latest paper, titled, "A Modified Elliptical Formula to Estimate Kidney Collagen Content in a Model of Chronic Kidney Disease," is "An important contribution to science and medicine" said Dr. Narayan. "His formula will most likely lead to a decrease in the need for painful kidney biopsies."

Through the High School's mentoring network, Jake teamed up with Dr. Narayan in the summer of 2016 to work on two projects relating to kidney disease. "Jake is a precocious young man, who brought exceptionally strong skills in applied mathematics, advanced biophysics, and deep-data analysis." Jake's work during that summer resulted in two peer-reviewed first author publications. The first one published in 2016 describes a formula for estimating the amount of cysts in a model of polycystic kidney disease (<http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0163063>). The second publication (<http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0190815>) in January 2018 describes a novel method to evaluate the amount of scarring in kidneys based off just two linear measurements. The salient features of this second body of work are a modification of the commonly used elliptical formula to estimate renal dimensions and potentially, in the future, reduction in the number of painful and sometimes risky biopsies performed to determine the amount of scar tissue in the kidney.

Each summer, Angion, a small biotech business engaged in developing therapeutics in areas of unmet medical needs such as kidney and liver disease, opens its doors to interested STEM students from Long Island, New York City, and New Jersey. The students spend about two months getting hands-on experience with basic and applied biomedical research conducting experiments, testing hypotheses, gathering and analyzing data while sharpening their presentation skills with the help of one of Angion's principal investigators in a state-of-the-art research facility.

Jake spent last summer studying the biochemical processes of THC through the Simons Science Research Program at Stony Brook University, and credits his interest in physics and engineering to his grandparents. "He loves to solve problems, and his quest for answers drives



Teachers and mentors Jeanette Collette, Richard Kurtz, and Dr. Prakash Narayan congratulate Jake on his significant contributions to medical research.

him," said science teacher and mentor Richard Kurtz. Jake has many other interests besides science and math. He competes on the school's Science Olympiad and Mock Trial teams, is president of the Spanish Honor Society and the Science Honor Society, and is vice president of the Gardening Club. Jake is also a musician, and a tutor. He has not made a final decision on which university he will attend next year, but plans to study physics and engineering.

U.S. Presidential Scholar Candidate: Perfect Score

Brendan was named a U.S. Presidential Scholars candidate, as one of the Nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. Students are recognized who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, creative and performing arts, as well as those students who demonstrate ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields.

Each year, up to 161 students are named, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students. The Scholars represent excellence in education and the promise of greatness in young people. In honoring the U.S. Presidential Scholars, the President of the United States symbolically honors all graduating high school seniors of high potential. Over 4,500 candidates are



Brendan is congratulated by Dr. Donald James, Superintendent; Leslie Boritz, Commack High School Principal; and Christine Natali, Lead Counselor of Guidance.

identified for the component of the program that focuses on academic achievement, based on having scored exceptionally well on the SAT or the ACT. Brendan had a PERFECT Score on the ACT - 36 out of 36, and also scored exceptionally well on the SAT.

Candidates are evaluated on their academic achievement, personal characteristics, leadership and service activities, and the quality and content of their essay. The White House Commission on Presidential Scholars reviews the applications of all semifinalists, and then selects the 161 U.S. Presidential Scholars.

To commemorate their achievement, the Scholars are awarded the Presidential Scholars Medallion at a ceremony sponsored by the White House.

Superintendent's Message

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I want to start with how extremely proud I am of our students! I could give you many, many examples, but for this letter, I will focus on student members of our Legislative Advocacy Committee. In early March I had the pleasure of traveling to Albany with members of our new Legislative Advocacy Committee (LAC) and Board of Education to share our legislative platform (see www.commackschools.org/advocacy) with our elected officials. It was a very rewarding



trip, in large part due to the fact that four members of the LAC are Commack High School students who served as our spokespersons. They spoke to such issues as funding for education, over-testing of young children, curriculum reform, alternate pathways to graduation, and the importance of public education. Our legislators, including Senator Flanagan, Assemblymen Andrew Raia and Michael Fitzpatrick, and Assemblywoman Christine Pellegrino, took time out of their packed schedules to listen and respond to our students. It was a very special trip, only made better when Commack student musicians performed in the Concourse, and all students who attended received special recognition in the Assembly Chamber. Many photos were posted on Twitter, Instagram, and our [website](#) with the hashtag #CommackDay and #CommackProud for all to see!

As we await word on the State budget, we are finalizing our 2018-2019 school budget. The good news is that even with rising pension and healthcare costs and almost no increase in State aid, the Board of Education and administration have announced that there will be no cuts to our present programs, and we continue to develop new programs that foster student academic growth, social and emotional development, and student success - programs that are age appropriate, well rounded, and designed specifically for the students of Commack.

Lastly, I would like to reinforce the fact that the safety and well-being of our students and staff is of the utmost importance. We have, and will continue to, make sure that our schools are secure through the ongoing review and implementation of our daily and emergency protocols. I hope to see you at one of the many spring-time events in our schools!

Sincerely,

Donald James, Ed.D.

Superintendent, Commack School District

Private and Parochial School Transportation Request

The Commack School District will provide transportation service to students attending private and parochial schools based on certain requirements. The application form is posted on the District Website: <http://bit.ly/2CHze8E>.

The applications must be returned to Commack School District's Transportation Office no later than April 1, 2018. Please call (631) 912-2020 with any questions.

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

Thursday, April 12, 2018
Meeting & Budget Adoption
Hubbs Administration Building at 8 p.m.*

Thursday, May 3, 2018
Meeting & Budget Hearing
Hubbs Administration Building at 8 p.m.*

*The Board will convene at 6:30 p.m. and is expected to adjourn into Executive Session. Public meetings will commence at times stated above.

SPRING RECESS-SCHOOL CLOSED

March 30 - April 8, 2018

VOTER REGISTRATION

May 3, 2018 at Commack High School
May 9, 2018 at Commack Middle School
9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

DANCING WITH THE TEACHERS

May 4, 2018 at Commack High School

Click the Community Events link on the Commack Website for more events www.commackschools.org

Follow us on Twitter @Commack Schools
Follow us on Instagram @CommackSD
@Commack_Supt

Check out our daily photos and updates on Twitter.
You don't need to have an account to see our Tweets - just click the blue bird on the top of the Commack Website's home page!



OLYMPIC FEVER at Wood Park

The Wood Park Primary School gymnasium was transformed into a Winter Olympics arena, where students learned and experienced events that were highlighted in this year's Winter Olympics

Thanks to the imagination and efforts of Physical Education teacher Cathy Pugh, the children participated in speed

skating, hockey, thrilled at ski jumping, practiced the precision of curling, the teamwork of the bobsledding, and built up the endurance needed in the biathlon, all while understanding the importance of sportsmanship and fair play.

In photo are first graders in Mrs. Stahlmann's class with Mrs. Pugh and Mrs. Conforti.



Future Badminton Players at Rolling Hills



High School Varsity Badminton Team players introduced the primary school students at Rolling Hills to the fun of the game and how to play under the watchful eyes of PE teacher Will Seifert and badminton coach Jesus Valdes. High school students demonstrated proper form and techniques for holding the racket, and went over the rules of the game.

Students Win Multiple Awards at Math Tournament



Congratulations to the Commack Varsity Math Team for their stellar participation and performance in the 2018 Suffolk County Math Tournament held in January at the Selden campus of Suffolk Community College.

In photo with students is Superintendent Dr. Donald James; Math Teacher and Advisor Christina Pawlowski; Principal Leslie Boritz; and Math Director Barbara Gerson.

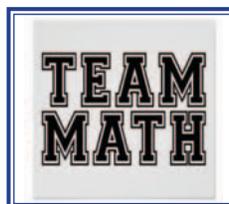
Special congratulations to the following students that placed individually and also in the team round:

Individual Awards

- 9th Grade:
- Jordan, Second Place
- 10th Grade:
- Louis, Second Place
 - Riley, First Place
- 12th Grade:
- Matthew, Third Place
 - Daniel, Second Place

Team Awards

- Lower Division (Grades 9 and 10):
- Commack Team A, First Place
 - Andrew
 - Jordan
 - Louis
 - Riley
 - Kimberly
- Upper Division (Grades 11 and 12):
- Commack Team A, Second Place
 - Daniel
 - Anoop
 - Matthew
 - Brendan
 - William



Community Service: *We Can Help*

"Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day." Sally Koch

Fifth graders in Mrs. Levine and Mrs. Butler's classes at Burr participated in a community service project, preparing over 40 lunches for the clients at the Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative. The students prepared turkey sandwiches, and added water bottles, Gatorade, granola bars, pretzels, chips, oranges, apples, and cookies.

All the students decorated

lunch bags with happy scenes, flowers, rainbows, hearts, and smiles. The lunches were made with love and helped to feed those in need in our community.

"Everything was so beautiful. The pictures on the bags, the hearts, the words, all so genuine. Thank you again for all your help with this worthwhile project," said Katherine Vasilopoulos of HIHI.

Good deeds not only fill the buckets of others, but our own, as well.



North Ridge Scores Again! Superbowl Touchdown!



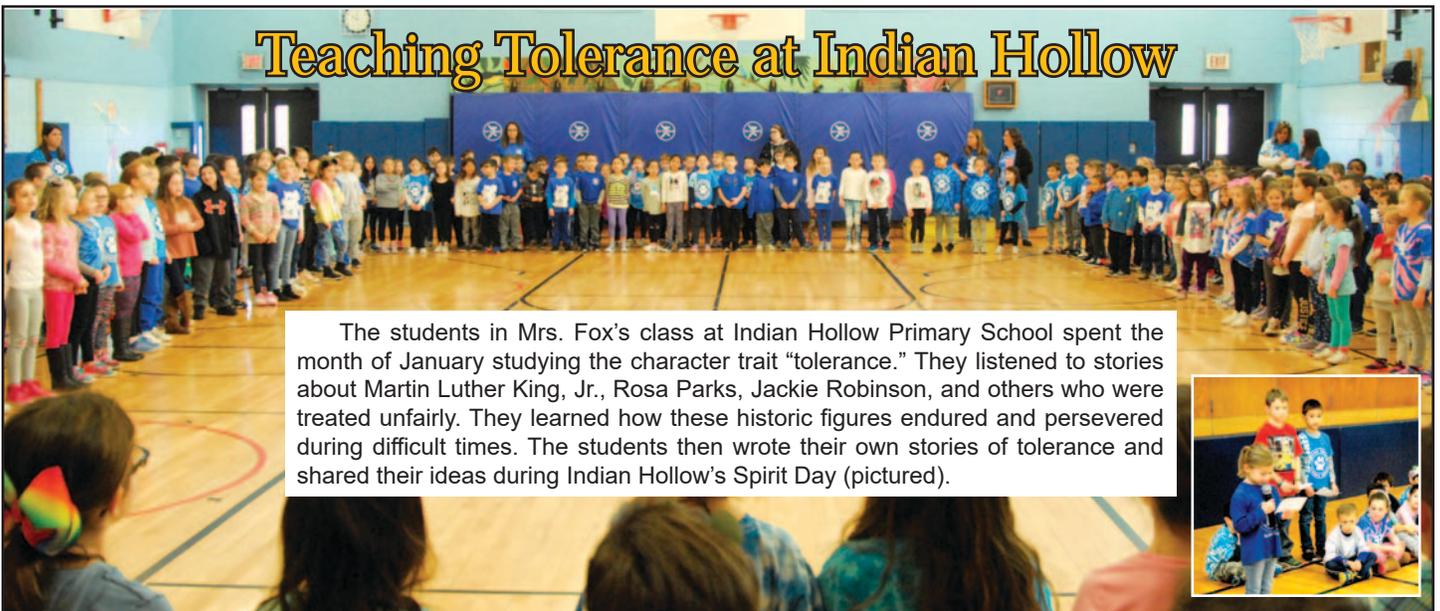
The ninth annual "Souper Bowl" at North Ridge Primary School in Commack was a huge success! The children collected a whopping total of 7,188 cans and bags of soup. Lorraine Esposito, the PE teacher at North Ridge, "sculpted" the soup into the shape of a giant sneaker.

"Each day when the children came to gym, they were amazed at how well the sculpture was beginning to take shape and this motivated them to bring in more and more soup," said Mrs. Esposito. Each class' donations were tallied on a bulletin board,

and Mrs. MacKenzie's class won the "Souper Bowl" by donating 1,976 cans of soup. They received some extra play time in the gym's Safety City.

The soup was donated to Long Island Cares, which is Long Island's First Food Bank and one of the region's most comprehensive hunger action organizations. Long Island Cares serves individuals and families in need, and much of their success is due to the support they receive from people like the children that attend North Ridge Primary School.

Teaching Tolerance at Indian Hollow



The students in Mrs. Fox's class at Indian Hollow Primary School spent the month of January studying the character trait "tolerance." They listened to stories about Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, Jackie Robinson, and others who were treated unfairly. They learned how these historic figures endured and persevered during difficult times. The students then wrote their own stories of tolerance and shared their ideas during Indian Hollow's Spirit Day (pictured).



Suffolk County Sheriff Shares His Values with Middle School Students

It was a first for Commack Middle School when newly-elected Suffolk County Sheriff Errol Toulon Jr. came to town. Thanks to his friendship with a Commack family, the Catuoscos, whose son showed his social studies teacher a coin from the Sheriff's inauguration, the wheels were set in motion for this special visit.

Sheriff Toulon met with Commack Middle School teacher Christine Mankes' social studies classes on January 25. He explained the responsibilities of the Sheriff's office, and talked about his 53-day campaign when the person originally running for office bowed out. He impressed upon the students the importance of helping others and making the right choices. Sheriff Toulon told them to "Protect each other and let someone know if there's something wrong." He expressed his concerns about opioids and bullying, and vowed to keep people safe in



their schools and in their neighborhoods.

The Sheriff answered all the student and staff's questions in a personable and friendly way, and plans to visit middle schools throughout the county during his four-year term. Thanks to Sheriff Toulon and Deputy Sheriff Rich Tedesco for taking time out of their busy schedules to speak frankly to our teens and pre-teens.

Service Learning Project



Mrs. Nichols and Mrs. Sandak's classes at North Ridge Primary School completed another service-learning project for our community.

They assembled 36 lunches for homeless men as part of the Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative. The lunches were jam packed with goodies to help a person survive in the cold weather, and included a hearty sandwich, chips, a tasty dessert, bottled water, and an assortment of other snacks.

The teachers and the children agreed that the best part of their continuing outreach to those in need in our community is the feeling they get by helping others in any way they can.

Warm Up to Reading



The children and faculty at Rolling Hills enjoyed their annual literacy-filled "Warm Up To Reading" evening. The children and their families were entertained with a PTA Arts-in-Education sponsored program, "The Bodacious Book Show," presented by Agostina Arts Theatre. During the show, the children and their families recalled fun facts about classic childrens' books and participated in a presentation of "Jack and the Beanstalk."

This event marked the kickoff to Partners in Reading. This year's theme is "Reading Warms The Heart." As the children read, they record their minutes on decorated hearts that are posted weekly in the breezeway, and participate in school-wide literacy events that include "Read-A-Shirt" Day and "Poem In Your Pocket" Day.

Staying Active to Promote Healthy Habits



To bring awareness to healthy lifestyle habits and encourage children to stay active, Sawmill Intermediate School holds an annual Health and Wellness Day. Fourteen volunteers from local community businesses as well as parents in the health field volunteered their time to come in to speak to our students. Each class attended two 40-minute sessions that varied from physical

activities such as yoga, martial arts, and kickboxing, to presentations on nutrition, CPR, healthy eating, and many other topics.

The school would like to thank all the community members who participated and all those who helped us put together this successful and educational event.

Towering Garden of Bounty

Through the generosity of the PTA Arts in Education Committee, students and the High School Science Department constructed a tower garden.

The tower garden is a vertical-growing structure that is self-contained to produce fruits and vegetables

throughout the year in any location. The Garden Club members and our life skills science students worked together to assemble it, and have already planted seeds that have begun sprouting.

“The applications for this mobile unit (it’s on wheels) are truly limitless and we envision extending the learning opportunities to our biology and research classes,” said Ryan McGrath, science teacher and Garden Club originator, “and special thanks to the PTA and our volunteers for this amazing resource for our students.”



Medical Marvels at Commack High School

Concerned with the rising number of overdoses and deaths caused by opioid addiction, three Commack High School students came up with a unique potential treatment using virtual reality as an opioid substitute.

Congratulations to our research students, who won “Best Presentation” at the Medical Marvels competition at the Feinstein Institute: Alexis, Wonjeong, and Alexandra. Also in photo is Richard Kurtz, science teacher and mentor, and Dr. Alison Offerman-Celentano, Director of Science.



L♥ving Acts from C♥mmack

Commack's got heart, and plenty of it! Acts of kindness, in so many forms, are shown here in the photos. Students throughout the District created and sent Valentine's Day cards to soldiers and continued Commack's tradition of sending Valentines to Veterans at the Northport VA.

At Burr, Mrs. Cestaro and Ms. House's third grade classes earned money doing extra chores to buy games for Stony Brook Child Life Services. They donated games, toys, and books (donated by Commack parent Ralph Darienzo). The teachers matched their donations, and also bought sweet treats for the doctors and nurses.

At the High School, the National Honor Society delivers carnations to students and teachers in its annual flower-gram sale at Commack High School, accompanied by sweet notes from the giver.



P.S. I Love You Day at CMS

February 9 marked Commack Middle School's third annual "P.S. I Love You Day." Started in 2010 by a West Islip High School student who lost her father to suicide, "P.S. I Love You Day" is aimed to bring awareness to mental illness, such as depression, and to remind all to celebrate life and those who are important in their lives.

The Middle School's Social, Emotional, Developmental, and Learning Committee, which is comprised of teachers and student leaders, led a host of activities. They encouraged all to wear purple to symbolize that CMS supports the respectful treatment of others and the importance of appreciating the people in our lives. Students and staff were asked to write empowering, positive messages about life and persevering through tough times on large banners. These messages included, "Be yourself...you are terrific!" "Find the best in every situation;" and "Don't Stop Believing." The banners continue to be displayed throughout the school to continue to inspire students on a daily basis.

The day of reflection and celebration culminated in a walk, with the 2018 slogan "Go the Extra Mile." Students and staff walked the perimeter of the Middle School to support "P.S. I Love



You Day." On the walk, they were educated with posters along the route relaying staggering facts about youth suicide and supportive quotes about staying strong.

FBLA Honors at Spring Competition

Commack High School's Future Business Leaders of America members did quite well at the annual Spring District Competitions at Hofstra University. Congratulations to:

- Meredith: 1st Place - Advertising, 3rd Place - Economics
- Madison: 2nd Place - Basic Decision Making, 2nd Place - Business Communications
- Abinaya: 1st Place - Client Services
- Alexis: 2nd Place - Impromptu Speaking
- Ariana: 4th Place - Introduction to Business, 1st Place - Intro to Public Speaking
- Julianna: 1st Place - Job Interview, 2nd Place - Management Decision Making
- Cayla: 4th Place Personal Finance, 4th Place Word Processing
- Aria: 4th Place Public Speaking, 4th Place Technology Concepts



Winning students with business teacher and FBLA advisor, Sandra Braun.

- Charlson: 3rd Place - Securities and Investments
- Vincent: 2nd Place - Sports and Entertainment Marketing
- Danielle: 3rd Place - Word Processing

Paul Infante Named CAS Administrator of the Year



Paul R. Infante, Commack's Director of Fine and Applied Arts is the consummate professional and leader. He was recognized for his selfless commitment to his fellow administrators, and the faculty and students he serves.

Mr. Infante is the president of the Commack Administrators and Supervisory Association, and approaches every situation with care and pride. He has established high-quality programs that benefit student of all ages, and is a visible presence at all District and building events. As a result of his efforts and proactive planning, the Commack School District has

been recognized nationally for its outstanding music and art programs and is a model school for Long Island.

He was also surprised at the award presentation with a well-deserved Lifetime Achievement Award. Thank you for all you do! Mr. Infante plans to retire at the end of the 2018-2019 school year, and we will miss him very much!

Attending the award ceremony and offering their congratulations to Mr. Infante are members of Commack administration team: Eliot Lewin, Dr. Alison Offerman-Celentano, Barbara Gerson, Katherine Rihm, Nina Bryant, Frank Agovino, and Reza Kolahifar.

Learning About Real World Business Sense



When it comes to learning about the "real world," there's no close second to hearing from someone who has "been there and done that" for over 26 years in the industrial design field. This is the type of learning experience that the students in Commack's International Baccalaureate Design Technology class received when John Kraljic, owner of regional design firm idk3CO, spoke with them.

Mr. Kraljic, in his frank and direct style, shared advice that was both laudable and valuable such as the importance of building trust in business relationships, his belief that anything is possible when designing new objects, and the need to stay current in an ever-changing

field. As the holder of numerous patents, Mr. Kraljic and his firm provide turnkey product development. His firm and he have created innovative new products in housewares, consumer electronics, medical devices, furniture, surveillance systems, marine equipment, and visual displays. In the creation of products, he uses a number of different rapid prototyping technologies to deliver proof-of-concept and functional prototypes in a matter of days.

Overall, the students in Design Technology greatly benefited from learning about the manifold opportunities in Industrial Design from a local leader in the field.

Bringing Lemoncello's Library to Life!

Commack Middle School Team 6-4 brought the novel, *Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's Library*, to life, literally. After the entire sixth grade team read the book, librarians Joan Hanley and Carolyn Burton had students participate in a contest, where players used rebus clues figuring out secret messages, as characters did in the book.

A multiple interdisciplinary exercise, math teacher Susan Boyce taught students how to draw maps to scale, proportionately, and in Randi Seideman and Jeff Trebour's ELA classes, students identified details of all rooms from the book. In science, teacher Deborah McNamara discussed how eyes function, and the basis of seeing in 3D.

Students worked with a partner and drew the assigned details of those different settings, emphasizing color, as well as main characters in the story. All maps and character pages were displayed, lining the hallway walls at CMS to recreate the world of Lemoncello's Library.

For the culminating event, Lemoncello Celebration Day, all

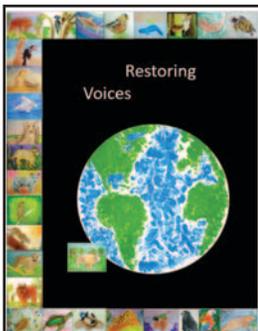


students, and many staff members, created 3D glasses, and cruised the hallways with teacher Tom Stevens, enjoying their own work alive in 3D (photo). Students then enjoyed Skyping with the very animated and enjoyable book's author, Chris Grabenstein, who discussed his current books and future works. Students and staff alike agreed the entire experience was awesome!

Middle School's Global Collaboration to Save the Animals

"The House of Representatives is considering a bill that would eliminate Endangered Species Act protections for species that are not native to the United States. This would seriously undermine the United States' ability to fight wildlife crime and the illegal wildlife trade threatening some of the world's most imperiled species - like tigers, elephants, and rhinos." - World Wildlife Fund

Teachers Grace Barrett, Lauren Sturchio, and Maria Quinn, along with students in seventh and eighth grade English classes and Creative Connections, an art elective,



hope to raise awareness into the part that human action plays in the destruction of animal species on our planet. As creative advocates for these animals, the students used their voices and artistic skills to communicate their message through poetry and paintings, and published a book called **Restoring Voices**.

The motivational goal was to educate and raise awareness of endangered and threatened species. They began by highlighting ten species from Long Island, USA. They expanded their focus to include ten

such species from Costa Rica, Central America. By comparing these two regions, they concluded that while there are cultural differences and challenges that each region face, the struggles of their wildlife is extremely similar. The students are eager to learn more about other global communities, especially Costa Rica so that together they can work towards positive changes for these animals for the future.

The book consists of two parts. The first shares poems written in English with Spanish translations about ten species from Long Island. The second part moves on to ten species the students selected from Costa Rica. After each poem and translation, you will find a startling fact that provides insight into the unique struggle of each species.

Mrs. Barrett traveled to Costa Rica over the February break and presented the book to students in the Lincoln School in Heredia, Costa Rica. Lincoln is an international IB school that is seeking MYP status. **Re-**



storing Voices is an example that shows an MYP unit that includes statements of inquiry utilizing a global issue integrating English, world language, and visual art to communicate a message to an audience.

If you'd like to purchase a book, please visit: www.lulu.com, and search for **Restoring Voices**. Proceeds from the book will support Alturas Wildlife Sanctuary in Costa Rica, which rehabilitates and nurtures wildlife with the hope of releasing the animals back to the wild.

With these positive actions moving forward, we can truly restore voices.

Wood Park Primary School's reading teachers collected books during Literacy Month to fill the shelves in the new Ronald McDonald House Family Room at Stony Brook Children's Hospital. The Little Leaders at the school organized the items on to a cart and helped Mr. Meehan load the items into the Ronald McDonald House van.

WP Literacy Month Drive for Children in the Hospital



Science Accolades at LISEF, JHSH, and Exploravision

LISEF

By invitation only, in a field of less than a hundred projects from the Long Island region, Commack High School's five student projects were honored with multiple special awards, as well as Grand Award placements for each of our students at the Long Island Science and Engineering Fair.

"We clearly beat the statistical odds which is a testament to our fantastic program," said Director of Science, Dr. Alison Offerman-Celentano. "Kudos to our High School science research team, led by Mr. Richard Kurtz, Dr. Lorraine Solomon, Ms. Jeanette Collette, Dr. Daniel Kramer and Mrs. Andrea Beatty."

Congratulations to:

- Aria & Yeil – Third Place Engineering Mechanics and the Yale Science and Engineering Award for "A Sensitive Wide-Band Antenna System to Detect RF Radiation of Various Frequencies and Polarizations with High Directionality"
- Raphael – Third Place Microbiology for "The Effects of Nitazoxanide on Bacterial Virulence Factor Assembly by the Chaperone/Usher Pathway"
- Daniel – Third Place Environmental Engineering and the NASA Earth Science Systems Award for "Wind Field Estimation using Deep Convolutional Neural Networks"

- Delina – Third Place, Earth and Environmental Science, the American Meteorological Society Award, and Third Place for American Women Geophysicists Award for "Applying a Quadrature Representation to Model Aerosol-Cloud Interactions"
- Sean & Kyle – Second Place, Engineering Mechanics, the Yale Science and Engineering Award, and the INTEL Excellence in Computer Science Award for "Deep Learning for Classification of Non-small Cell Lung Tumors in CT Scans"

In addition to our Round 2 Competitors, Special Awards also went to two Round 1 Competitors:

- Pragati - Society for InVivo Biology Award
- Anoop - NASA Earth Science Systems Award

The LISEF Fair also includes a JV Division, with Commack winning two awards.

- Charlson - Honorable Mention, Cell and Molecular Biology
- Abigail and Theresa - Third Place, Behavioral Science

The best news is that our students will be going on the compete at the New York State Science and Engineering Fair!

Junior Science and Humanities Symposium



SCIENCE - JSHS

Our science research students competed in the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS) in February. This is one of the most competitive fairs that we enter as students need to apply for a spot to present their research. We are very proud of all of our competitors and the winners are listed below:

- Aria - First Place, Engineering
- Anoop Third Place, Earth and Space Science

Aria competed in the Regional Finals on February 24, representing his and Yeil's project, "A Sensitive Wide Band Antenna System to Detect RF Radiation of Various Frequencies and Polarizations with High Directionality." Aria's scores qualified the team to continue on to the National Finals in May, being held in Hunt Valley, Maryland.

Novel Inventions for the Future



Three teams of science research students at Commack High School received an Honorable Mention in this year's Toshiba Exploravision Competition. Only the top 10% of the hundreds of projects received are awarded this designation.

Exploravision seeks innovative projects that could change the future, and our students surely came up with some great ideas! Congratulations to:

- Nikhita, Gavin, Brianna, and Tryphena – "NovAxon: The Future of Nerve Regeneration"
- Jayson, Jack, Craig, and Marlee – "SurgPort: The Synergy of Surgery and Teleportation"
- Liam, Evan, Cole, and Rohan – "RecovNH3: From Garbage to Fertilizer"

3-Time Suffolk AA Champions!



Suffolk AA & Section XI Champions! For the third time in four seasons, the Girls Varsity Basketball Team won the Suffolk AA Championship, defeating Half Hollow Hills East in the Suffolk County Finals 52-25. The girls also won the Suffolk Section XI Title. It was another awesome season for our Girls Varsity Basketball team and coaches. Congratulations!

League 1 Champions

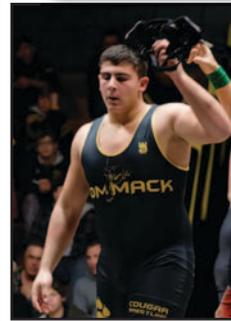
Girls Fencing - Undefeated Season and Suffolk West League 1 Champions!

Congratulations to our Lady Cougars who won 21-6 over Whitman to take the #1 spot in League 1 West. Seniors Stephanie, Katie, and Amanda had an awesome season!



Boys Fencing News: Suffolk West League 1 West Champs!

The Boys Fencing Team took the Suffolk West League 1 Title with a win over Whitman 15-12. Congratulations to seniors Chris, with a 22-7 record in Epee, Joon, with a 20-5 record in Foil, and to Charlson, who finished the season 23-5 in Sabre.



Our first ever Eastern States Wrestling Champion!!! But that's not all! Senior Joseph took second in the NYS Finals, after an amazing 38-3 season. An All-State wrestler, Joey won the League title and was second in the County in the 285 weight class. This was only the second time a Commack wrestler has made it to States.

Junior Steven represented Commack in the NYS Championship meet for shot put. He also won the shot put and weight event at the Long Island Elite Track meet, and competed in the New Balance Indoor National High School Track and Field meet.



Congratulations to our wrestling team!

- **Jake: County Champion & League Champion**
- **Matthew: County Finalist and League Champion**
- **Joseph: County Finalist and League Champion**
- **Gavin: All County and All League**
- **Nicholas, Danny & Ryan: All League**



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